William Harman is almost certainly dying of syphilis. The early portion of his history might remind one of Palmer's. Both were athletic young men whose energies seemed to find temporary release in alcoholic excess. Both seemed to overcome their alcoholism only to succumb to syphilis, which was probably contracted from some casual sexual contact, in which alcohol quite conceivably was a factor. Each seems haunted in his troubled lifetime by the spectre of his own unfilled promise, which it is possible to imagine that Palmer acknowledges by claiming western ranches while confined in the walled Asylum on Queen Street West, and Harman by nourishing a fictive "brother" with food that he cannot eat himself.

(A Letter in a Bottle)[lxvii]

The "History" of Herbert Metcalfe[lxviii] indicates that he was admitted to the "Asylum for the Insane" on November 15, 1882, as a "pay patient" at 3 dollars per week, supported by his father. He was 20 years old, single, of "good education," and of the Methodist persuasion. His habits of life had been regular until the present attack, which began three months ago. He believed "that his food was poisoned" and would not eat.

The "Form K" or "Certificate of Insanity" completed by Dr. Ogden has had the printed regulation requiring "the certificates (Form K) of three medical practitioners" amended to read "two medical practitioners." Under "facts indicating insanity" Dr. Ogden lists "remarkable restlessness," pointless wandering, doubts about paternity, and suspiciousness of friends:

> fancies every friend is combined against him & all are & have been for some years making deliberate attempts to administer to him poison by his food .... Imagines he is not really the son of his parents at all.

Under "facts ... communicated to me by others" he records Herbert Metcalfe's insistence that he not go out except at night, "when he cannot be observed."

In the second "Certificate," Dr. Burns records, under his own observations, Metcalfe's convictions that his family have poisoned his food and generally "conspired to destroy his life. He also records, under the same heading,